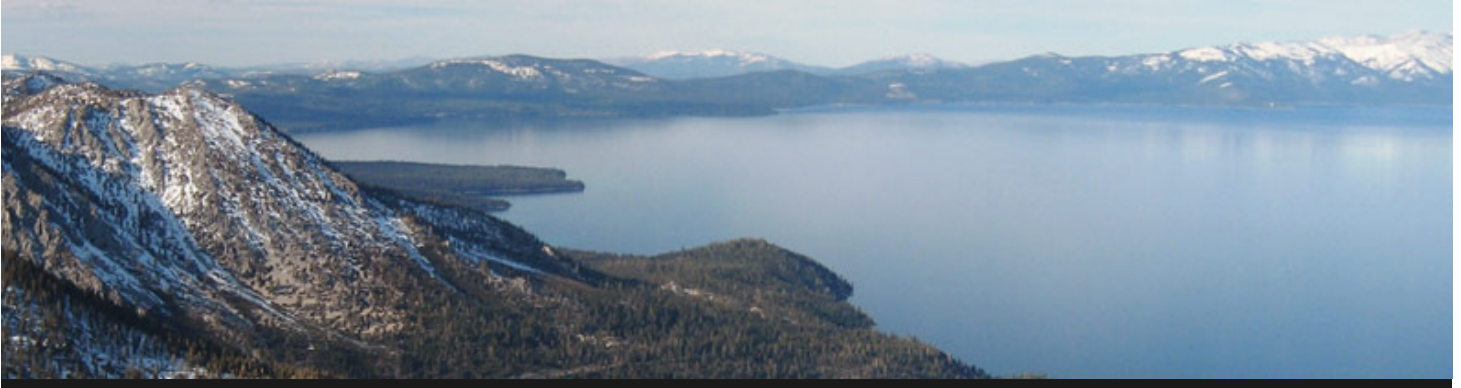




nileGUIDE

ALL YOU NEED TO PLAN YOUR PERFECT TRIP



Your First Time in Lake Tahoe

Lake Tahoe, 4 Days

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Guide Description



AUTHOR NOTE: The Lake Tahoe regions span two states: California and Nevada. The California side (The northwest portion of the lake) is home to Tahoe City, Truckee and most of the major ski resorts. It's got a small, mountain-town and occasionally hippie vibe. South Lake is a bit more urban; this is where the previous area of Tahoe meets Nevada's state line (and where the casinos start cropping up).

Although it's got outdoor adventure activities year-round, winter is when Tahoe really shines. Or sparkles, rather. World-class skiing, amazing back-country snowshoeing, ice skating and snowmobiling take place all day, while hot tubbing, dancing, eating and cozy fires fill the nights.

Don't expect the snobbery of other ski towns, either; from ski bums to strippers, all types populate this seasonal area of northern California and if you can drag your gaze away from the snow capped mountains and blue, blue lake for a few minutes, there are some amazing people to meet.

Itinerary Overview

things to do
restaurants
hotels
nightlife

Day 1 - Lake Tahoe

DAY NOTE: THINGS TO DO

If you've never been to Tahoe, hitting the slopes should be your priority. Squaw is Tahoe's most famous ski resort (and the site of the 1960 Winter Olympics). Tahoe and nearby Nevada are also known for their casinos; Harrah's and Silver Legacy are both iconic gambling halls. You could also do a snowshoe trek at Kirkwood, wander by the lake to Vikingsholm or do some shopping/ski bunny sighting in Tahoe City. A car is a must, since shuttles to and from resorts aren't 100% reliable, and public transit just isn't that impressive.



Heavenly Ski Resort
Longest mountain descent



Kirkwood Ski Resort
Sierra slalom



Donner Picnic Ground
Donner Camp picnic ground is located on the southwest shore of Prosser Reservoir. This is the site of the George and Jacob Donner camp in the tragic winter of 1846-1847. A short interpretive trail is located at the site.



Sierra Nevada Adventures
Multi-sport action



Silver Legacy Resort Casino
Downtown icon



David Walley's Resort Hot springs
Pampering in Nevada's oldest town



Squaw Valley USA
Some of the world's best skiing



Vikingsholm Castle
Scandinavian architecture in Emerald Bay



Harrah's Lake Tahoe
Lake Tahoe's most popular casino



Tahoe City
A quaint town at mouth of Lake Tahoe

Day 2 - Lake Tahoe

DAY NOTE: RESTAURANTS

Dining in Tahoe consists of an interesting mix of gourmet California cuisine (we do have some of the best produce in the nation) to homey, rustic, comfort-food diners (is there anything better after a day on the slopes? Not in my opinion.)



Andy's Truckee Diner
'50s nostalgic diner



Squeeze In
The best omelets around. Period.



Wolfdale's Restaurant
New taste treats



PlumpJack Café
Exciting contemporary American cuisine



Jake's on the Lake
Favorite hangout since 1978

Day 3 - Lake Tahoe

DAY NOTE: NIGHTLIFE

Just like the restaurants, Tahoe's offerings span many demographics: cozy pubs for ski bums who just want a cold one in hand while they regale people with tales of their mountaintop adventures to swank nightclubs, often in casinos, pulsing with loud music and surprisingly-scantily-clad ladies.



Blu
Bluer than thou



Brews Brothers
Named best brewpub in America



Siena Hotel Spa and Casino
Where the in-the-know go



The Chocolate Bar
Feel like a kid again

Itinerary Overview

things to do
restaurants
hotels
nightlife



Pete 'n Peter's

Favorite North Lake sports bar

Day 4 - Lake Tahoe

DAY NOTE: LOCAL RECOMMENDATION: MUSEUMS

Not everyone knows this, but Lake Tahoe and the region has been home to some very important California state history. It was the site of the Donner Party's unfortunate (and ill advised) trek and played important roles in the California gold rush and railroad development. Museums and exhibits in the area pay tribute to its fascinating "Old West" past.



National Automobile Museum

Oldies but Woodies



Way It Was Museum (The)

See how the miners lived



Nevada Gambling Museum

Old West comes to life



Nevada State Railroad Museum

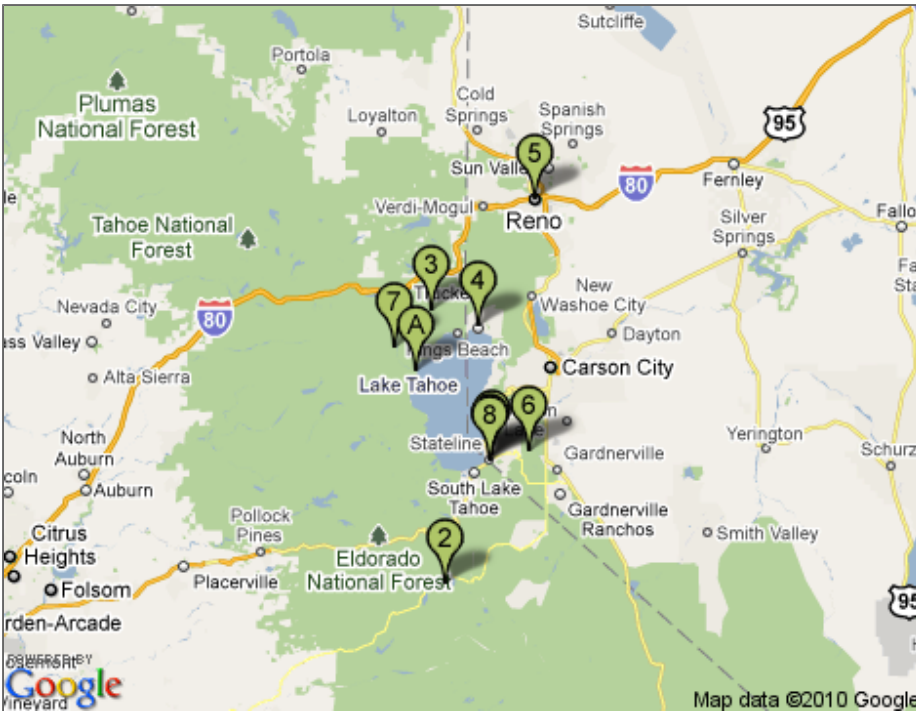
Ride an old train



Gatekeeper's Log Cabin Museum

On the shores of Lake Tahoe

Day 1 - Lake Tahoe



QUICK NOTE

DAY NOTE: THINGS TO DO

If you've never been to Tahoe, hitting the slopes should be your priority. Squaw is Tahoe's most famous ski resort (and the site of the 1960 Winter Olympics). Tahoe and nearby Nevada are also known for their casinos; Harrah's and Silver Legacy are both iconic gambling halls. You could also do a snowshoe trek at Kirkwood, wander by the lake to Vikingsholm or do some shopping/ski bunny sighting in Tahoe City. A car is a must, since shuttles to and from resorts aren't 100% reliable, and public transit just isn't that impressive.

contact:
tel: +1 775 586 7000
<http://www.skiheavenly.com>

location:
Highway 50, Ski Run
Boulevard
Stateline NV 89449

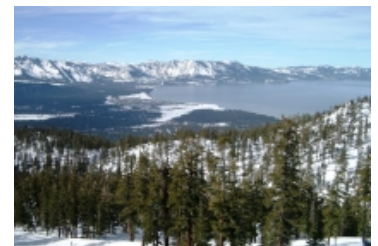
hours:
8a-5p, depending upon
weather

1 Heavenly Ski Resort

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:

The top of the tram is a great place for kids to play.

DESCRIPTION: Heavenly's 29 chair lifts, including two new high-speed quads and high-capacity tram allow access to 82 trails, allow skiers and riders to access over 4,800 acres of terrain, making Heavenly Lake Tahoe's largest mountain playground. Heavenly's 3,500 vertical feet of terrain, spanning two states, are the most on the West Coast. The gondola at Heavenly takes skiers and riders 2.4 miles from the heart of downtown Lake Tahoe to the heart of the mountain in under 12 minutes. It is the longest and fastest ski gondola in California. Heavenly Ski Resort offers top-name entertainment, nightclub dancing, casino gambling and award-winning dining and lodging. Heavenly has an array of services including a state-of-the-art day care center, which provides care for infants and toddlers, and the Perfect Kids Children's Center, teaching children the fundamentals of skiing and riding. Both of these childrens facilities are located in the California Lodge. Heavenly



offers 4,800 acres of terrain for skiing and snowboarding. Heavenly is located on the South Shore of Lake Tahoe, on the California-Nevada border. From Reno, the drive is about 1 1/4 hours. Follow U.S. Highway 395 south to U.S. Highway 50, then follow Highway 50 west to Heavenly. From Sacramento, the drive takes about two hours, following Highway 50 east to Heavenly. © wcities.com

contact:
tel: +1 209 258 6000
<http://www.kirkwood.com/summer/>

location:
1501 Kirkwood Meadows Drive
Kirkwood CA 95646

2 Kirkwood Ski Resort

DESCRIPTION: With 12 lifts delivering you to 68 different runs, you can choose from some of the best terrain in the Sierra Nevada Mountains. There is a base elevation of 7,800 feet and a summit elevation of 9,800 feet, giving the skier a 2,000-foot vertical descent. The resort offers downhill and cross-country skiing, snowboarding and snowshoeing. Ski instruction and rentals are available; the Mighty Mountain Children's Ski and Snowboard School is open for ages 4-12. © wcities.com



cajoel/Flickr

contact:
tel: 530-587-3558

location:
10342 Hwy 89 north
Truckee CA 96161

3 Donner Picnic Ground

DESCRIPTION: Donner Camp picnic ground is located on the southwest shore of Prosser Reservoir at an elevation of 5,900 feet. This picnic ground has four sites with tables and fire rings. There is no potable water, but there are toilets available onsite. This is the site of the George and Jacob Donner camp in the tragic winter of 1846-1847. A short interpretive trail is located at the site.

contact:
tel: +1 775 831 4591
<http://www.sierranevadaadventures.com>

location:
Call for reservations and venues
Incline Village NV 89450

hours:
Jun 1-Oct 31 by reservation only

4 Sierra Nevada Adventures

DESCRIPTION: All gluttons for pain can gather and get their grueling exercise with this outfit. Forms of punishment include mountain biking, rock climbing, kayaking and rafting. Sport packages include the latest and best equipment available and meals. Your guides are EMT or certified in First Aid for your safety. A shuttle service will pick you up at your hotel. © wcities.com



Mike Baird-Flickr

contact:
tel: +1 775 325 7401 / +1 800 687 8733
<http://www.silverlegacy.com>

location:
407 North Virginia Street
Reno NV 89501

5 Silver Legacy Resort Casino

DESCRIPTION: The 85,000-square-foot casino offers players 80 table games and 2,500 slots. A mining rig rises 120-feet above the casino floor and generates its own excitement from dusk to dawn.



contact:
tel: (775) 782-8155
<http://www.davidwalleys.com/>

location:
2001 Foothill Road
Genoa NV 89411

6 David Walley's Resort Hot springs

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:

Soak first, massage second.

DESCRIPTION: Nestled in the shadow of the majestic Sierra Nevada's, 12 and a half miles east of South Lake Tahoe. David Walley's Resort, Hot Springs and Spa is a year-round destination featuring all the amenities of a world-class spa. Relax and enjoy our 6 natural hot mineral springs pools, our full-service Spa, fitness center and award-winning restaurant. Luxurious accommodations are available onsite.



Thomas Wanoff/Flickr

contact:
tel: +1 530 583 6955
<http://www.squaw.com/>

location:
Highway 89 at Squaw Creek
Road
Olympic Valley CA 96146

7 Squaw Valley USA

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:

Even if you don't ski, take a trip up to high camp to ice skate or to swim in the pool.

DESCRIPTION: 4,000 acres of world famous terrain, from the tamest to the toughest, offer something for skiers and snowboarders of all ages and abilities. Six mountain peaks, spacious open bowls, three terrain parks, 2 standard halfpipes, an enormous Superpipe, and miles of carefully groomed runs are easily and quickly accessed via a lift network of 33 lifts, including 7 express lifts, an aerial Cable Car and North America's only Funitel. From skiing and snowboarding on one of the top mountains in the world, to ice skating, snowtubing, rock climbing, and more, Squaw Valley offers a broad range of recreation possibilities. Off the slopes, guests enjoy mountain-top ice skating, snowtubing, the High Camp Swimming Lagoon & Spa (March - Sept.), shopping and restaurants all overlooking Lake Tahoe. On the lower mountain, activities include an indoor climbing wall, cross country skiing, snowshoeing, sleigh rides, dog sled tours and the Resort at Squaw Creek's relaxing health and fitness spa. Squaw Valley USA is located 42 miles west of Reno, NV, 96 miles from Sacramento, and 196 miles from San Francisco via all-weather Interstate 80. The valley entrance (look for the Olympic Towers) is just 8 miles from Truckee and 6 miles from Tahoe City and the North Shore of Lake Tahoe, on Hwy 89. © wcities.com



contact:
tel: +1 530 525 7277
<http://www.vikingsholm.com/>

location:
Highway 89
South Lake Tahoe CA 96143

8 Vikingsholm Castle

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:

The beach in front of Vikingsholm is usually pretty empty. Nice place for a picnic.

DESCRIPTION: America is too young to have European-caliber castles, but that doesn't mean there aren't some fascinating bits of architecture peppering the country. Vikingsholm is one



such gem, and anyone interested in history, architecture and, well, vikings, will be fascinated by Vikingsholm. Lora Josephine Knight began construction on her estate in 1928. 200 workers were employed to carve the intricate viking designs by hand, and all the hinges around the house were hand-forged as well. In keeping with its viking style, the house uses almost no nails or screws in its design, and the grass hanging over the rafters is from, you guessed it, a legitimate sod roof. Take a tour of the interior and you'll see plenty of authentic Scandinavian furniture and artwork. Admission is USD1 for adults, and children are free. This site is accessed from Emerald Bay State Park, also known as the D.L. Bliss State Park. © NileGuide

contact:
tel: 1 775 588 6611 / 1 800
427 7247 (Toll Free)
<http://www.harrahs.com/>

location:
P. O. Box 8
Stateline NV 89449

9 Harrah's Lake Tahoe

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:

One of the hottest nightclubs at Tahoe, Vex, is at this casino hotel.

DESCRIPTION: Sizzling nightlife? Check. Gourmet cuisine? Check. Pai Gow, Baccarat, Craps and Blackjack? Check, check, check... Harrah's is an institution among Tahoe and Reno casinos, and for good reason. This hotel-restaurant-casino has more entertainment and more amenities than can be experienced in just one day. From improv to concerts to poker to noodle bars, Harrah's is as eclectic as you could wish. Gamblers, the slot machines accept coins and tokens from five cents to \$500. © NileGuide



contact:
tel: +1 888 434 1262
<http://www.visittahoeocity.com/>

location:
Hwy 28 and Hwy 89
Tahoe City CA 96145

A Tahoe City

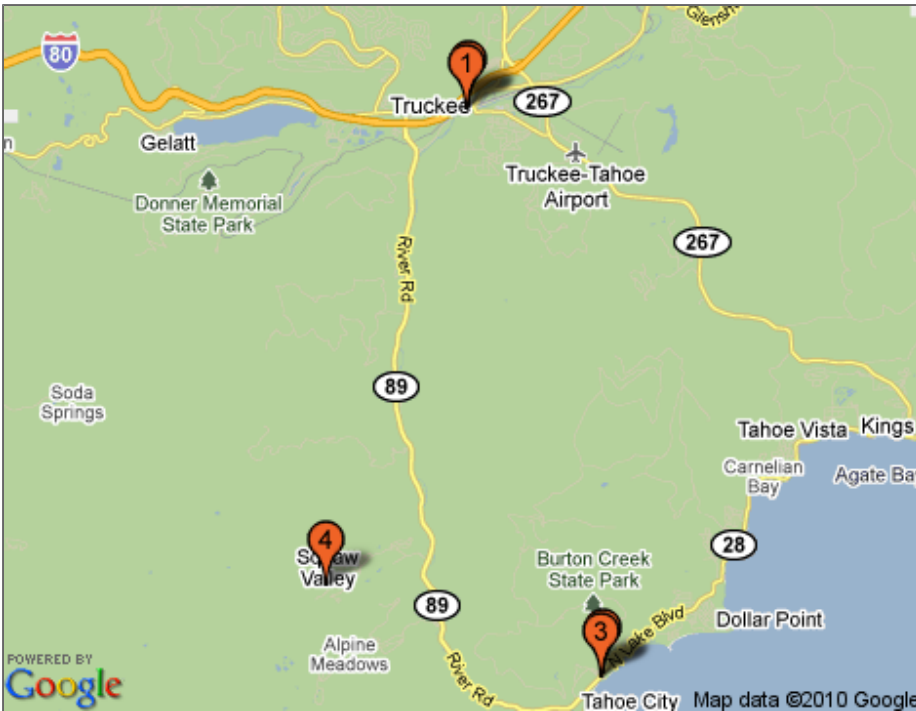
OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:

Tahoe City lies at the "Y" of Hwy 89 and Hwy. 28.

DESCRIPTION: This little town on the west shore of the lake is home to many shops and popular restaurants, all within walking distance of one another. The only outlet to Lake Tahoe is the spillway underneath Fanny Bridge. The bridge was so named because passersby on the highway saw numerous people constantly leaning over the bridge looking at the hundreds of fish in the waters below. Across the highway you will find miles of hiking and biking trails, and places to rent rafts and float tubes so you can float downstream on the Truckee River. © wcities.com



Day 2 - Lake Tahoe



QUICK NOTE

DAY NOTE: RESTAURANTS

Dining in Tahoe consists of an interesting mix of gourmet California cuisine (we do have some of the best produce in the nation) to homey, rustic, comfort-food diners (is there anything better after a day on the slopes? Not in my opinion.)

contact:

tel: 1 775 582 6295

http://national.citysearch.com/profile/40041923/truckee_ca/truckee_diner.html

location:

10144 West River Street
Truckee CA 96160

hours:

6a-10p M-F, 6a-11p Sa-Su

1 Andy's Truckee Diner

DESCRIPTION: Bop on in for some tasty food served up in a fun atmosphere with lots of rock 'n' roll. The music is mostly 50s and 60s; really cool stuff! This diner was built in 1948 and transported clear across the country. In Truckee, it was restored to its former glory and people have been enjoying the great food and nostalgia ever since. Sit at the counter or choose a booth. Try the Truckee Basic Burger with french fries. The diner is located in historic Truckee. © wcities.com



contact:
tel: 530 587 9814
<http://www.squeezein.com/>

location:
10060 Donner Pass Road
Truckee CA 96161

hours:
Daily 7a-2p

2 Squeeze In

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:

A local's weekend choice for breakfast and brunch.

DESCRIPTION: The Squeeze In has been serving up some of the best breakfast fare in Truckee since 1974...and shows no signs of slowing down. With 62 varieties of omelette on the menu, enthusiastic waitstaff and an early opening hour, this funky establishment will help you fortify yourself for the day's activities, whether they include skiing, snowboarding, rafting, hiking or boating. The walls are covered with customers' comments, graffiti and initials, and plastered with Tahoe memorabilia. They close after lunch (2pm), and early visitors will be rewarded with a shorter wait time. Along with the "best omelettes in the world," they also serve traditional breakfast items and a variety of burgers, sandwiches, burritos and salads.

Featured in Throwdown! with Bobby Flay on the Food Network.

© NileGuide



Rel Waldman

contact:
tel: 1 530 583 5700
<http://www.wolfdales.com/>

location:
640 North Lake Boulevard
Tahoe City CA 96145

hours:
Jul-Aug: 6p-10p M-Su, Sep-
Jun: 6p-10p W-Su

3 Wolfdale's Restaurant

DESCRIPTION: The building in which this restaurant resides was built in 1889. Now this Tahoe City restaurant and owner/chef Douglas Dale are noted nationally for fine cuisine. Chef Dale apprenticed at the Seventh Inn in Boston under the fine tutelage of Chef Hiroshi Hayashi. The menu is a mixture of East-West cuisine with an emphasis on the freshest of seafood dishes. One might start with a delectable Seafood Bisque and then choose Sea Bass Tempura. Duck and lamb dishes are also a popular choice. Excellent, moderately-priced wines will complement your meal. © wcities.com



Photo courtesy of Wolfdale's Restaurant

contact:
tel: 530 583 1578
fax: 530 583 1734
<http://www.plumpjack.com/cafe6.html>

location:
PlumpJack Squaw Valley Inn
Olympic Valley CA 96146

hours:
Mo to Su from 07:30 AM
to 10:30 AM, Mo to Su from
11:30 AM to 10:00 PM

4 PlumpJack Café

DESCRIPTION: Squaw Valley investors have spent oodles of money trying to turn the ski resort into a world-class destination, and one big step in the right direction is the sleek, sexy PlumpJack Café. Although dinner prices have dropped slightly (guests balked at the original rates), none of PlumpJack's standards have diminished. Expect impeccable service regardless of your attire (this is, after all, a ski resort). Menu choices range from Agave-glazed prawns, or a Sonoma duckling duo with roasted celery root in a black cherry sauce, to grilled lamb rack served in a cracked-mustard sauce with an avocado roll. There's also a more casual bar menu, and those familiar with PlumpJack in San Francisco know that the reasonably priced wine list is among the nation's best. © Frommer's



wcities

contact:

tel: 530 583 0188

fax: +1 530 583 0203

<http://www.jakestahoe.com/>

location:

780 North Lake Blvd.

Tahoe City CA 96145

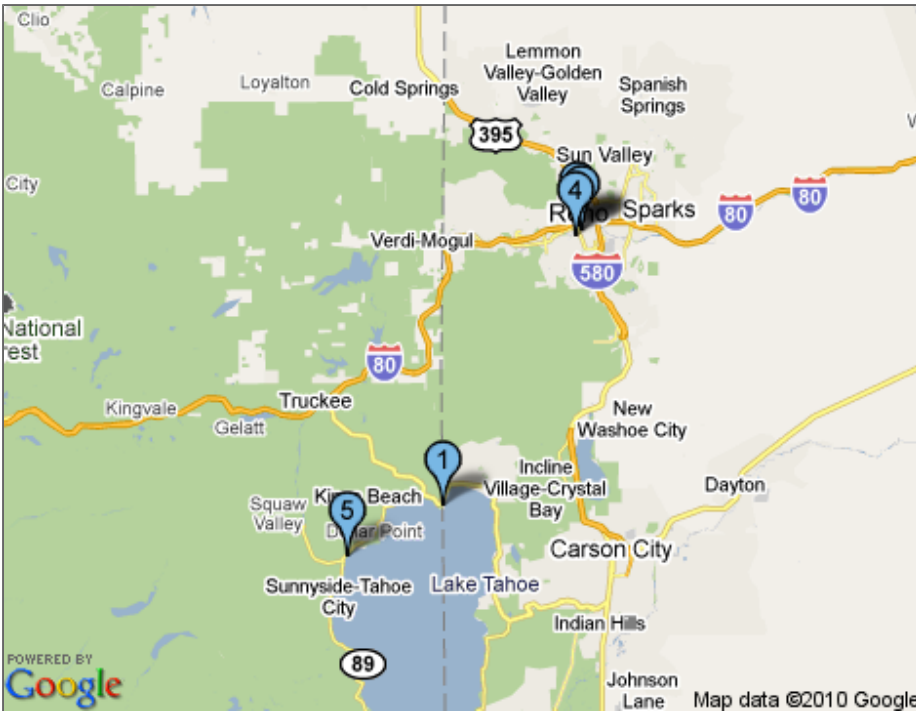
5 Jake's on the Lake

DESCRIPTION: This is one of the hottest dining spots at Tahoe. Situated at Boatworks Marina and minutes away from Squaw Valley USA and Alpine Meadows, the place has been a hub of activity since 1978. Seafood is the specialty here, and no one does it better. You can make a meal out of the Pacific Seafood Chowder or Spicy Tomato Shellfish Soup. For an entree, try the Creole-Style Swordfish with Cajun Shrimp. A flame-broiled Filet Mignon with Peppercorn Demi Glaze is offered. The excellent wine list ranges in price. © wcities.com



Photo courtesy of Jake's on the Lake

Day 3 - Lake Tahoe



QUICK NOTE

DAY NOTE: NIGHTLIFE

Just like the restaurants, Tahoe's offerings span many demographics: cozy pubs for ski bums who just want a cold one in hand while they regale people with tales of their mountaintop adventures to swank nightclubs, often in casinos, pulsing with loud music and surprisingly-scantily-clad ladies.

contact:

tel: 775 586 2000 / Hotel: 888 829 7630
<http://www.montbleuresort.com/entertainment.php>

location:

55 Highway 50
Stateline NV 89499

hours:

Daily 10p-close

1 Blu

DESCRIPTION: Located inside the MontBleu Casino Resort & Spa, this cutting-edge nightspot features everything you need for a posh evening out in Stateline. Marvel at the plush decor, attentive wait staff, stunning clientele, expertly mixed drinks and expertly mixed beats. The dance floor is always pulsing, and the lighting is meticulously programmed. If you're feeling truly saucy, sign up for VIP treatment (which includes private cabana service). © wcities.com



the tahoe guy/Flickr

contact:
www.eldoradoreno.com

location:
345 N. Virginia St
Reno NV 89501

2 Brews Brothers

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:
Try their apple walnut salad.

DESCRIPTION: Named Best Brewpub in America by Nightclub & Bar magazine, The Brew Brothers offers eight custom microbrews and a creative menu, including gourmet wood-fired pizzas, salads, burgers, ribs, sandwiches, homemade soups and complete dinners. Catch live rock and blues nightly. The Brew Brothers was also voted the area's finest in the latest Best of Nevada poll and was named the highest selling brewpub in North America. Their pizzas are simply fantastic.



jimg944/Flickr

contact:
tel: 775 337 6260 / 1 877 743
6233 (Toll Free)
fax: 775 337 6608
www.sienareno.com

location:
One South Lake Street
Reno NV 89505

3 Siena Hotel Spa and Casino

DESCRIPTION: The Siena is the place in Reno for discriminating travelers. The focus is on comfort, service, and value, providing a unique combination of amenities designed with pure pleasure in mind. The small yet entertaining and personable casino is one of the best in the area for gambling; the full-service spa is the perfect place to relax, and the restaurants offer some fantastic entrees and drink offerings.



contact:
tel: 775 337-1122
http://www.thechocbar.com/

location:
475 S Arlington Ave
Reno NV 89501

4 The Chocolate Bar

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:
Try one of the bar's martinis.

DESCRIPTION: Few can resist the temptation of fine chocolate. Throw into the mix a full bar with talented bartenders and tasty deserts, and they will need a stick to beat the hordes away. This place is stylish, though you do not need a suit and tie. This place is situated next to the Truckee River, which give this place ambiance both inside and outside. Try the chocolate fondue and a cocktail. Not recommended for those on the Atkin's diet! Yummy!



Jeff Kubina/Flickr

contact:
tel: 530-583-2400

location:
395 North Lake Tahoe
Boulevard
Tahoe City CA 96145

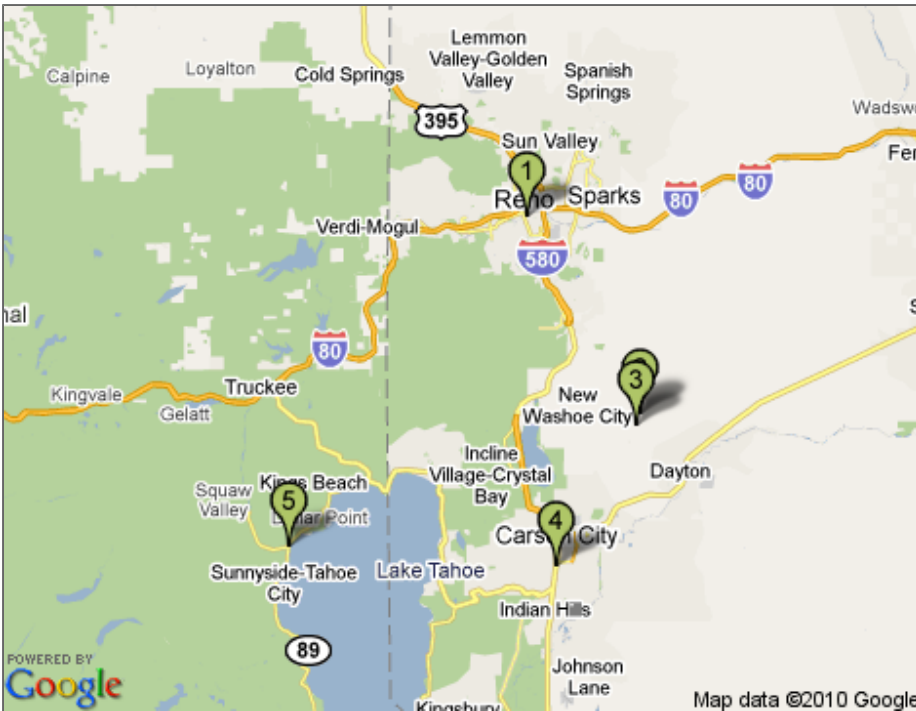
5 Pete 'n Peter's

DESCRIPTION: Food, beer, pool, and the game. A great time regardless of what you seek. The menu is typical sports bar fare; however, the people you will meet here are those with whom you garner friendships...unless they happen to be cheering for the other team. Standing room only for the Super Bowl.



apol3/Flickr

Day 4 - Lake Tahoe



QUICK NOTE

DAY NOTE: LOCAL RECOMMENDATION: MUSEUMS

Not everyone knows this, but Lake Tahoe and the region has been home to some very important California state history. It was the site of the Donner Party's unfortunate (and ill advised) trek and played important roles in the California gold rush and railroad development. Museums and exhibits in the area pay tribute to its fascinating "Old West" past.

contact:

tel: +1 775 333 9300

fax: +1 775 333 9309

<http://www.automuseum.org>

location:

10 South Lake Street
Reno NV 89501-1558

1 National Automobile Museum

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:

Special exhibits come every couple of months.

DESCRIPTION: If classic cars are your passion, then this museum is an absolute must-see. The 100,000-square-foot building houses one of the largest collections of antique automobiles to be found anywhere. It has been voted one of the top ten automobile museums in the country and one of the best 16 museums in the world. The cars are grouped by age in street settings appropriate to their time. These real-life backdrops include everything from Burma Shave signs to old gas pumps. See the cars that were originally a part of the Harrah collection including a Cadillac that belonged to Elvis Presley. © wcities.com



contact:

tel: +1 775 847 0766
fax: +1 775 847 9613

location:

113 North C Street
Virginia City NV 89440

hours:

10a-6p M-Su

2 Way It Was Museum (The)

DESCRIPTION: An extensive collection of rare photos, mineral and mining artifacts, maps and costumes reminiscent of the 1860 Comstock days captivates visitors to this museum. Learn how real miners worked, lived and even died in the mines. One exhibit shows a scale model of the hundreds of miles of underground mine shafts beneath Virginia City. Also on display is a working model and cutaway of a real silver and gold mine. Enjoy a 16-minute video featuring Merlin Olsen and Charlie Jones explaining life on the American Frontier. This is a must-see when you come to this historically rich town. Token admission fee. Children under age 11 free with adult. © wcities.com



contact:

tel: +1 775 847 9022

location:

22 South C Street
Virginia City NV 89440

hours:

9a-5p M-Su May-Oct, 10a-5p
M-Su Nov-Apr

3 Nevada Gambling Museum

DESCRIPTION: See the Old West and mining days come alive at this one-of-a-kind museum. The rooms are filled with gambling memorabilia including more than 100 antique slot machines dating back to the 1800s and early 1900s. Visit a replication of a gambling saloon and poker room from the 1870s. See rare artifacts, photos, and cheating devices used over the years. There is a very interesting old U.S. money display that shows a \$500- and \$1,000-dollar bill. This historic museum makes the Old West come back to life as you step through the door. Token admission fee and kids under age-11 admitted free. © wcities.com



contact:

tel: +1 775 687 6953
<http://www.nsrn-friends.org/>

location:

2180 South Carson Street
Carson City NV 89701

hours:

8:30a-4:30p M-Su

4 Nevada State Railroad Museum

DESCRIPTION: The Virginia and Truckee Railroad was America's richest and most famous short line railroad. The remains of this notable piece of history are now housed at this museum. There are more than 50 pieces of equipment including five steam locomotives and several restored coaches and freight cars. The museum offers lectures, an annual history symposium, changing exhibits and the operation of historic railroad equipment. Before the collection began, Hollywood movie studios purchased much of the original equipment from the V&T and one can see some of the trains in old movies. Token admission fee. Under 18 free. © wcities.com



contact:

tel: +1 530 583 1762
fax: +1 530 583 8992
<http://www.northtaohemuseum.org/contact.aspx>

location:

130 West Lake Boulevard
Tahoe City CA 96145

5 Gatekeeper's Log Cabin Museum

DESCRIPTION: This beautiful building is a reconstruction of the gatekeeper's cabin, which served as a residence for the dam attendant at Lake Tahoe. As you casually walk through the exhibits, you will see displays about the pioneers, the area's natural history and authentic old photographs. Also on display is a beautiful collection of American Indian baskets and artifacts. There are picnic tables on the park grounds adjacent to the museum.

© wcities.com



Lake Tahoe Snapshot

Local Info

Lake Tahoe is an original. The "Jewel of the Sierras" is the third deepest lake in the world at 1,645 feet, and its crystal blue water shines brightly in both winter and summer inviting visitors to relax and enjoy the beauty. The Lake Tahoe area was recently voted the best ski area in the United States by Orbitz. And the locals couldn't agree more.

Lake Tahoe straddles two states, Nevada and California. And each portion of the lake has a different vibe. Like the Native Americans who summered in the region and called it "big sky lake", we will come up from the Nevada side, drop into California and then back into Nevada.

Nevada and Highway 50

For your first view of "The Lake", nothing is better than taking Highway 50 up from Carson City, the capital of Nevada. Even people who have lived here for years, still catch their breath when witnessing this blue beauty hovering among mountains and pine forests. The trip continues with a tour around the 72 miles of shoreline. Each place you go, you will not lose sight of the lake that Mark Twain called the "fairest picture the whole earth affords".

Traveling toward Stateline, and home to the gaming center of Tahoe you will drive passed the Logan Shoals Vista Point and through the tunnel at Cave Rock, which is sacred to the native tribes in the area. You will then pass by Zephyr Cove where you can camp, rent water and snow toys, eat at numerous restaurants or just enjoy one of the nicest beaches in the area. Zephyr Cove is also where you can catch a ride on the MS Dixie II, a full-size paddlewheeler (that Mark Twain would be proud of) or the Woodwind II, a catamaran that sails during the summer months. Stateline is home to Harrah's, Harvey's, Montbleau and the Horizon casino resorts. Here you can eat, game, relax in a spa, golf at the Edgewood Tahoe Golf Course or enjoy the lake without having to leave the area.

California and Highway 89 North

As you leave Stateline and head into California and South Lake Tahoe you will pass by Heavenly Village and Heavenly Ski Resort which has gondola with some

of the best views of the lake. Coming into South Lake Tahoe you will find numerous hotels, resorts, restaurants and other ways to enjoy Tahoe and the views.

South Lake Tahoe is known for the South Lake Tahoe Recreation Area and has several bike and pedestrian trails that run alongside the road. As you head out of SLT, onto Highway 89 North and into the Tahoe National Forest and Tahoe Basin, you drive through some of the more rugged and beautiful areas of the lake. Here you will find less restaurants, but beaches like Pope Beach and Baldwin Beach, camping or dining at Camp Richardson, the Mt. Tallac Trailhead and the Spring Creek Recreation Area. All this beauty leads up to Emerald Bay, at the southern tip of Tahoe. This deep green bay embraces the only island on the lake, Fannette Island. From here you can hike down to Vikingsholm Castle as well as get great views of both Emerald Bay and the nearby Cascade Lake. The Eagle Falls trailhead and access to the Desolation Wilderness is here as well. This area can be precarious during snowstorms and sometimes the road will be closed due to avalanches.

California and Highway 28

As you continue up Highway 89 to the West Shore, you will come across D.L. Bliss State Park, Meek's Bay and campground, Sugar Pine Point State Park, Tahoma, Homewood Mountain Ski Resort and the tiny but local favorite, Granlibakken ski resort. Most of the West Shore is privately owned and the piers inviting you to take a stroll over the water are gated. However, this area also has several bike-friendly trails that run from here to Tahoe City and up to Alpine Meadows Ski Resort. Tahoe City is "at the Y" of Highway 89 and 28. Highway 89 heads north towards Truckee on Interstate 80 and passes by Alpine Meadows and Squaw Valley USA, home of the 1960 Winter Olympic Games, and Highway 28 heads back toward Nevada. Tahoe City is a laid back town near the outlet of the Truckee River and offers dining and bars, rafting, golfing and shopping.

Back to Nevada

Beyond Tahoe City, Tahoe Vista and Carnelian Bay, the turnoff for Highway 267 also goes to Truckee over the Brockway Summit and passes by Northstar-at-Tahoe

ski resort. If you stay on 28 you will head back into Nevada through Kings Beach which offers hotels, restaurants and a public beach. Highway 431, or the Mount Rose Highway, passes by the local favorites of Tahoe Meadows, the Mount Rose Summit trail, Mount Rose Ski Tahoe resort and into the Galena area of South Reno, home to Jack Nicklaus's Montreaux Golf and Country Club.

The quiet, laid back town of Incline Village has some of the local favorites in food and drink. Ski Diamond Peak, play a round of golf at the Incline Village Golf Course or access the lake at the Lake Tahoe State Park from Hidden Beach or Sand Harbor. Sand Harbor is the prettiest beach on the lake and home to the annual Lake Tahoe Shakespeare Festival. Farther along the road you will see a parking area for Secret Harbor, a clothing-optional beach about a mile hike from the road.

This is near the end of your circle of Tahoe. You can drive back down Highway 50 to Carson City which connects along Highway 395 to Reno and Sparks, or you can take the loop again! Lake Tahoe is big and full of out-of-the-way treats. It might be best to take the lake in sections. But after your first visit, you are bound to come back and join the locals in helping to "Keep Tahoe Blue."
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Fun Facts

Top 12 Lake Tahoe Facts

1. Donner Pass and Donner Lake are named after the ill-fated Donner Party. This group of settlers attempted to cross the mountains in the winter of 1846-47. Most of them were trapped by the snow and several of them resorted to cannibalism to survive.
2. Strange Fact: Truckee, California often registers the lowest temperature in the nation, but not during the winter season. During the spring/summer seasons of 1991, 1993 and 1994, Truckee claimed the honor of coldest spot in the nation, excluding Alaska.
3. The deepest snowpack recorded at Tahoe was over 30 feet deep in 1890.
4. Interesting Fact: If Lake Tahoe was tipped over, the water would cover

Lake Tahoe Snapshot continued

California to a depth of fourteen and a half inches.

5. Weird Fact: Many drowning victims are never recovered from Lake Tahoe. The cold water at lower depths preserves the bodies and prevents the formation of gases that would otherwise float them to the surface.

6. Interesting Fact: As an "interstate navigable waterway," Lake Tahoe is protected by the U. S. Coast Guard and

is reputed to be the most desirable Coast Guard duty station in the world.

7. Tahoe has nine mountains with peaks over 10,000 feet including Mt. Rose, Jobs Peak and Freel Peak.

8. The Tahoe area averages more than 300 days of sun each year.

9. Tahoe has 18 alpine and cross country ski resorts and over 50 championship golf courses.

10. Random Fact: Virginia City is known as "The Liveliest Ghost Town in the West."

11. The floor of the Tahoe basin (the bottom the lake) is near the 4,580 foot elevation, lower than the surface of the Carson Valley to the east.

12. Fun Fact: Sixty three streams flow into Lake Tahoe.

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Weather

Statistics	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Temperature C												
Average High	6	7	9	12	16	22	26	26	22	16	10	6
Average Mean	0	1	3	5	9	14	17	17	14	9	4	1
Average Low	-5	-4	-3	-1	2	6	9	9	7	2	-2	-4
Temperature F												
Average High	42	44	48	53	62	71	78	78	72	62	49	43
Average Mean	33	34	37	41	49	57	63	63	58	49	39	33
Average Low	24	25	27	30	36	43	49	49	44	36	29	24
Rainy Days	9	7	9	5	5	5	2	2	2	5	7	9
Rain Fall (cm)	7.3	6.8	6.0	2.2	2.2	1.4	0.8	1.2	2.2	2.9	5.5	5.6
Rain Fall (in)	2.9	2.7	2.4	0.9	0.9	0.5	0.3	0.5	0.9	1.2	2.2	2.2

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